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one party of them begins, 'Unto us a child is born,' and toys innocently with the idea; a second party follows in a similar strain;—then a third—then a fourth—until at length, at the words 'Wonderful, Counsellor,' all the voices join. The flocks of the field, and the whole starry host of heaven—every thing awakens, and is moved with joy and gladness.

But enough, ye Muses, if not indeed too much. If, however, you have heard your 'Messiah,' I much wish to be made acquainted with your opinion of it. I always learn something when you give me your opinion upon any subject.

#### BRIEF CHRONICLE OF THE LAST MONTH.

**BIRMINGHAM, (Jan. 2.)**—Two concerts were given in the Town Hall, for the benefit of the Aged and Distressed Housekeepers. In the morning, the *Messiah* was performed, and in the evening there was a Miscellaneous Concert. The room was thinly attended both morning and evening.

**MUSIC HALL, MANCHESTER.**—The Selection of Music at the Concert given the 6th of January, was, in accordance with the usage of the Society, from the more elevated style of sacred music. The Concert commenced with a selection from Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*, including the Overture; the Choruses, "Lord, Thou alone art God," the air "But the Lord is mindful of his own," and the grand Chorus "Arise, shine! for thy light is come." This was followed by selections from Haydn, Spohr, Mehul, Handel, and Beethoven. The music was generally given with good effect, by an efficient vocal corps, and a full orchestra.

**CROSBY HALL SACRED CONCERTS.**—A feature in these concerts, is the selection of music for performance, which is not usually heard in public; amongst the choral works, at the third concert, on the 8th, were Purcell's anthem, "Behold I bring you glad tidings," a new anthem by Mendelssohn, Novello's arrangement of "Adeste fideles," a chorale by Prince Albert, a "dismissal" by Miss Mounsey, &c. &c. The Hall was well filled with an attentive audience.

**TONBRIDGE.**—The Choral Society gave a highly satisfactory performance of the "Messiah," at the Town Hall, on the 9th inst. There was a good band. The choruses were well executed, and, indeed, the whole performance reflected great credit upon the society.—*From a correspondent.*

An attempt is being made to establish for the working classes a weekly musical lecture, on Saturday evenings; the object being to discourage their attendance at those places of amusement termed "free and easy," where the immoral song or sentiment forms the staple amusement of the evening. Four lectures on this principle have already been delivered, at 242, High Holborn, the attendance at each, varying from seven to eleven hundred persons. Mr. Edney is the lecturer.—*Dramatic and Musical Review.*

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.**—This excellent institution has lately distributed among distressed individuals connected with the musical profession, having no claim on its funds, the sum of £55. 10s. The Society appropriated upwards of £2389 last year, to the laudable object for which it was founded in 1738—namely, the support of aged and indigent musicians, their widows and orphans.

**CLIFTON CLASSICAL HARMONISTS**, at their Meeting on the 13th January, performed with success the "First Mass" by Haydn, the Jupiter Symphony of Mozart, and a selection from Himmel, L. de Call, Handel, &c.

**SOUTH LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY** was formed a few years ago, by Mr. Joseph Mainzer, principally of persons wholly unacquainted with music. Since that gentleman has left England to devote his energies to Scotland, the society has had the benefit of instruction from Mr. Jacob Mainzer, and the precision with which the pupils executed the well selected programme at their last public meeting, on the 8th of January, was equally honourable to the care and intelligence of the master, and the industry of his pupils. This society is one of the best of the classes on the Mainzerian system.

The **LEEDS CHORAL SOCIETY** gave their second concert on the 16th December, when Haydn's "Seasons" was performed. There was a faltering and hesitation in the band, but too apparent throughout the entire performance. The choral parts were highly effective and satisfactory. The audience were by no means numerous; and, indeed, it is more than probable, despite Dr. Wesley's exertions, the Leeds Choral Society will be dissolved. On the evening following, there was a concert given in aid of the funds of the Leeds Church of England Library, consisting of Handel's "Acis and Galatea," and miscellaneous songs and glees. The choruses were well up in their parts, and exhibited the effects of good training.

**MENDELSSOHN'S "Hymn of Praise" (Lobgesang)** has been lately given at Leipzig with very great effect. It is one of the most magnificent of this great author's works.

It is pleasant to find that the hitherto unmusical town of Banbury has lately formed its Choral Society, numbering thirty-five members, and as many subscribers. Portions of the "Messiah" delighted a numerous audience of townsfolk on a public night in November; and the "Creation" will be presented shortly. They meet for practice once a week.

**HUDDERSFIELD.**—The local Choral Society gave a concert in the Philosophical Hall, on the 19th December. The evening's entertainment consisted of Romberg's "Lay of the Bell," a selection from Handel, &c. The choruses, chiefly from "Solomon," were well sustained, and the whole went off with considerable applause.

The **GUILDFORD CHORAL SOCIETY** has resumed its meetings this year with increasing success. On the 21st inst. at their second concert, the carefully selected programme contained, amongst other pieces of merit, the chorals by Mendelssohn, "Sleepers, wake," "Oh, Thou the true and only light," "To Thee, O Lord," and "To God on high;" and an effective solo and chorus from Russell's oratorio of "Job."

We are informed that nearly £1500 has been subscribed towards the erection of a Music Hall in Guildford, and that a site, trustees, and building committee have been appointed.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—The ladies and gentlemen forming Mr. Elliott's First and Second Upper Singing Schools (on Hullah's system), under that gentleman's able superintendence, recently gave a selection of sacred and secular musical performances, which were entitled to the highest praise. The profits of the meeting were liberally consigned to the fund for the establishment of public baths and places of recreation.—*Birmingham Advertiser.*